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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/686,161

10/15/2003

R. Terry Dunlay

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07/06/2006

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EXAMINER

WHALEY, PABLO S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1631

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/686,161	Applicant(s) DUNLAY ET AL.	
	Examiner Pablo Whaley	Art Unit 1631	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I: Claims 1-9 and 13 drawn to a method for analyzing cells, classified in class 702, subclass 019.

Group II: Claims 10-12 and 14-17 drawn to a cell screening system and a machine readable medium comprising a program containing a set of instructions for causing a cell screening system to execute procedures, classified in class 702, subclass 019.

Group III: Claims 18 and 31 drawn a machine readable medium comprising a program containing a set of instructions for causing a cell screening system to execute procedures set forth in Figure 9, classified in class 702, subclass 019.

Group IV: Claims 19 and 32 drawn a machine readable medium comprising a program containing a set of instructions for causing a cell screening system to execute procedures set forth in Figure 11, classified in class 702, subclass 019.

Group V: Claims 20 and 33 drawn a machine readable medium comprising a program containing a set of instructions for causing a cell screening system to execute procedures set forth in Figure 12, classified in class 702, subclass 019.

Group VI: Claims 21 and 34 drawn a machine readable medium comprising a program containing a set of instructions for causing a cell screening system to execute procedures set forth in Figure 13, classified in class 702, subclass 019.

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Group VII: Claims 22 and 35 drawn a machine readable medium comprising a program containing a set of instructions for causing a cell screening system to execute procedures set forth in Figure 14, classified in class 702, subclass 019.

Group VIII: Claims 23 and 36 drawn a machine readable medium comprising a program containing a set of instructions for causing a cell screening system to execute procedures set forth in Figure 15, classified in class 702, subclass 019.

Group IX: Claims 24-28 and 37-42 drawn a machine readable medium comprising a program containing a set of instructions for causing a cell screening system to execute procedures for detecting the distribution and activity of specific cellular constituents and processes, classified in class 702, subclass 019. If this Group is elected, then the below summarized specie elections are also required.

Group X: Claims 30 and 43 drawn a machine readable medium comprising a program containing a set of instructions for causing a cell screening system to execute procedures for identifying novel receptor agonists and antagonists, classified in class 702, subclass 019.

The inventions are distinct and divergent, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions of Group I and Group II are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the cell screening system of Group II could be used in any number of materially different processes, such as PCR and microarray kits, respectively.

The invention of Groups [III-X] and Groups [I-II] are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01).

In the instant case the different inventions of Groups III-X each have different modes of operation. Specifically, Groups III-X are directed to distinct procedures (e.g. Fig. 9-15) and therefore each of Groups III-X is distinct from each other. Secondly, because EACH program is distinct and may be used with a system or method as disclosed in Group I or Group II, the inventions of Groups III-X are distinct from Groups I and II directed to a method for analyzing cells AND a screening system. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

SPECIE ELECTION REQUIREMENT

This application contains claims directed to patentably distinct and divergent species of the claimed inventions. If Group IX is elected, the applicant is further required to elect a single species from species A, below, for purposes of examination.

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Specie A: Species of cellular processes are cited in claims 25, 27-29, 38, and 40-42, which are directed to distinct processes that are generally separately classified and published, and thus documents undue search burden if searched together. Thus applicants are required to select one of the following cellular process:

- i. nuclear translocation of a protein
- ii. cellular hypertrophy
- iii. apoptosis
- iv. protease-induced translocation of a protein

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, Claim 24 is generic to the above species.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species

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to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pablo Whaley whose telephone number is (571)272-4425. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30am - 6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Wang can be reached at 571-272-0811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Pablo S. Whaley

Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1631
Office: 571-272-4425

MARJORIE A. MORAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Marjorie A. Moran
6/26/06